



March 2009

Around The Corner

The U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam's Newsletter



At Your Service

New York Nights

"New York Nights" is a week long celebration in Amsterdam. From April 1 - 6, exactly 400 years after Henry Hudson set sail for New York, the city will host a wide variety of events. The festivities will feature debates, lectures, and a town hall meeting with Russell Shorto and Geert Mak. Also, the New Amsterdam Trail in Amsterdam will launch and clubs and hot spots will have one single theme: New York.

Within the scope of the festivities around New York's 400th anniversary and Dutch-American relations, the City of Amsterdam will celebrate the occasion by hosting various activities and events in early April, exactly 400 years after Henry Hudson set sail for New York. Locals, New Yorkers and Americans living in the Netherlands, will celebrate the joint heritage and similarities between the two cities, countries, and peoples.

Wednesday, 1 April; Yankee Come Back (Boom Chicago)

In a multimedia spectacle of sharp sketches, improvisation, videos, internet and live music, the actors of Boom Chicago will examine the relationship between the two countries that has lasted for four centuries. How will that relationship proceed in the future and how do both groups really think about themselves and each other?

Wednesday, 1 April; Night of the Stars (The Hague)

A gala evening organized by the Holland America Friendship Foundation in The Hague. Proceeds from the event will go to Fulbright Scholarships and other educational and cultural exchanges.

1-3 April; Pioneers!

Bringing together innovative thinkers at the frontiers of active citizenship in Amsterdam and New York, The Pioneers Sessions will celebrate the common values of creativity, diversity, and entrepreneurship in Amsterdam and New York City. It will celebrate the two cities' shared history of urban greatness that began 400 years ago with the journey of the Dutch ship "Halve Maen," commanded by Captain Henry Hudson across the Atlantic in 1609.

The sessions will bring together a group of selected Pioneers—today's cutting edge thinkers and entrepreneurs from a variety of professional fields—for a transatlantic dialogue into the frontiers of civic engagement and social entrepreneurship in Amsterdam and New York City. Participants will be young professionals drawn from a broad range of fields including academia, the arts, business, health, education, government, grassroots activism, media and technology. Pioneers will gain knowledge and inspiration from exploring how innovative thinkers from different cities and disciplines are meeting the challenges of urban, social, and civic engagement.

The Pioneers Sessions will explore several key questions, rooted in the unique histories of both cities: What are the specific qualities of urban life in Amsterdam and New York City that create the conditions in which today's Pioneers thrive? How do aspects of history, politics, social traditions, cultural heritage, diversity, and demography in Amsterdam and New York City provide both the tensions and inspirations for civic engagement in multicultural cities? In which ways do global forces, technological change, economic recession, migration patterns, religious expression, and increasing diversity present challenges, and opportunities that today's Pioneers can act upon at the local level?

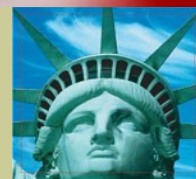




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April; New York Classics (Kriterion)

Movie theater Kriterion will feature New York Classics which are masterpieces of the history of film. These motion pictures range from old blockbusters to excellent though perhaps not widely known films. Some titles have a high show off character while others are true cinematic gems.

Thursday, 2 April; Design Festival Cut 'n Paste (Paradiso)

Amsterdam will host the design festival Cut 'n Paste, born in New York in 2005. Local and international design talent will challenge each other at a live, digital, design tournament.

Thursday, 2 April; New Generation Big Band (De Melkweg)

The New Generation Big Band is a unique collective. Groovin', funk'n' beats and explosive horns with great soloists are typical for this young orchestra, who's always looking for innovative ways to express their music. The band was founded five years ago and in this short period has organized many interesting projects. The New Generation Big Band worked with a whole range of soloists and played concerts throughout The Netherlands. After their first album release 'Had Je Wat?!', the band gained national fame.

One of the highlights of the past years was the concert with world famous saxophone player Bob Mintzer (NY), a high level multi instrumentalist and Grammy award winner in 2001. He plays saxophone, bass clarinet and EWI, and is an accomplished composer, teacher, arranger, and big band leader. Mintzer also is the saxophone player of the Yellow-jackets. Bob Mintzer has played with many renowned jazz artists such as: Thad Jones, Mel Lewis, Tito Puente, Aretha Franklin, and Buddy Rich to name a few.

Bob Mintzer: "The New Generation Big Band is exactly that. A new crop of great players who are taking the big band as an instrument to the next level. The band has a distinctive sound that reflects what is happening now. Keep your eyes and ears on this band."

Friday, 3 April; Museum Night: Open doors at the Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank House and Amsterdam Historical Museum; Foam presents "Richard Avedon,"; and Starry Nights at Van Gogh Museum

As part of the New York Nights Weekend, Amsterdam's front-rank museums Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank House, and the Amsterdam Historic Museum will open their doors to the public on Friday night with a special exhibition next to Rembrandt's famous "Night Watch." Among others, The Van Gogh Museum will exhibit in cooperation with MOMA "Van Gogh and the colours of the night" and the Rijksmuseum will show a precious collection of the founding documents of New Netherlands. Foam Photography Museum Amsterdam will host a large retrospective of the American photographer Richard Avedon.

Friday 3 April; Young Professionals event (+/- 200 persons) (Heineken Experience Hall)

The AmCham Young Professionals Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands will organize a special event with guest speakers Russell Shorto, co-author of *1609, The forgotten history of Hudson, Amsterdam and New York* and Frans van der Minne, Group HR Director of Heineken and former CEO of Heineken USA. These quality speakers will give a lecture followed by an interactive discussion focused on the historical, sociological, and entrepreneurial aspects of the US-NL longstanding relations. The evening will be concluded with a traditional Dutch *Stamppotten* buffet style dinner and drinks at the private floor of the Heineken Experience.



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Saturday, 4 April; Town Hall Meeting starring Russell Shorto and Geert Mak (Westerkerk)

The weekend will commence with a Town Hall Meeting focussed on the shared DNA of Amsterdam/The Netherlands and the City of New York. The subject of discussion will not only be the influence of The Netherlands on the United States in the 17th century, but also will take the dialogue further to critically examine the character and significance of the Dutch-US relations in the 21st century. U.S. Consul General Marjorie Ames will also deliver brief remarks.

Saturday, 4 April; Topscore XXXSperience (Special Dance Edition Club Escape)

During a big street dance competition boys and girls ages 12 through 18 years will have the opportunity to perform and show off their talents. Several dance styles will be portrayed. The jury will consist of New York dancers, who will also perform, and well-known Dutch dancers and choreographers (e.g. Timor and Eszteca of the Dutch television program "So you think you can dance?"). First prize for the street dance contest will be a trip to New York and participation in the Talent Swap complete with master classes, performances, and tours. Alderman Mrs. Gehrels will award the prizes. There will be several talent scouts in the audience searching for models, extras, singers, dancers, and youth with beat-boxing, and presentation skills. There will be beauty workshops, a game corner, shows by DJ KID, and DJ Abstract, and the entire evening will be hosted by Big Ed.

Saturday, 4 April; AMS-NYC Club Night

The most prominent clubs of Amsterdam will organize an American Club Night where New York and New Yorkers will predominate.

Sunday, 5 April; Henry Hudson for Kids (Schuttersgallerij, Amsterdams Historisch Museum)

Henry Hudson 400 Foundation will organize an educational program for children ages ten and up in Dutch and English to learn more about Henry Hudson, Amsterdam, and New York. The day will include stories in the "Schuttersgallerij," a discovery tour inside and outside of the museum, as well as other surprises. The City's storyteller will describe life in the 17th century, the thrilling voyage of Captain Hudson and his crew, as well as the spectacular discovery of Manhattan. Under the supervision of museum instructors and guides, the children will walk the *Henry Hudson for Kids Tour*—a tailor-made walk based on the Amsterdams Historisch Museum's Hudson audio tour. There will be a minimum of two tours at 11:30 a.m. in English and 1:30 p.m. in Dutch. As of April 6, visitors can download the tour from the Internet. Entrance is free.



Sunday, 5 April; Pioneers! Public event (+/- 650 persons) (Felix Meritis)

An entertaining and diverse program with talk shows, performances, workshops, enabling you to share in the inspiration and possibilities to bring about change with the Pioneers from various walks of life. They will take you to the crossroads of technology and democracy, art and politics, power and music, where new forms of citizenship are forged. Recognized and up-and-coming talents from New York and Amsterdam will present their visions and themes.

The program will include lectures by Roger Cohen (*The New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*), Jeff Johnson (*Black Entertainment Television*) and Andrew Rasiej (*Personal Democracy Forum*, *techPresident*), a talk show with Pioneers from New York and Amsterdam, Amsterdam & New York City Trend Watching workshop, Mission Possible In New York, The Happy City by Partizan Publik, Streetlab workshop: styling tips from Amsterdam for New York, Young Amsterdam Hip Hop on Stage with M.O. & Brakko and Zwart Licht, Boom Chicago, and more!

Monday, 6 April; Opening Night of Granida (Stadsschouwburg, Amsterdam)

The theater play *Granida* by Pieter Corneliszoon Hooft, first performed in 1605, intends to bring this early gem of musical theater back to the stage, both the Netherlands and in the United States. *Granida* shows that Holland was as much a frontrunner in popular musical theater as it was in shipping trade, tolerance, and painting.

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Monday, 6 April; Urban Health Care "A Public Health Tale of Two Cities" (De Duif)

During this conference on urban health care, best practices will be exchanged. An important theme is how both the cities of Amsterdam and New York look at the marginalized parts of their population like psychiatric patients, drug addicts, and homeless people. But other questions will be addressed such as: What is the role of government?, What are the risks of big cities?, How to deal with hard drug addiction?, and What are the characteristics of vulnerable groups? Part two of the conference will be held on September 10th in New York.

Tuesday, 7 April Amsterdam-New York Evening (Oude Kerk)

The Oude Kerk Foundation of Amsterdam will organize a festive evening where "Amsterdammers and New Yorkers" can meet and celebrate the early beginnings of New York and the centuries-long bond with Amsterdam. Onno Ruding, former Minister of Finance of The Netherlands during two cabinets, will give a lecture entitled: "USA and Europe: Different Values and Behavior in Finance?" The evening will be musically enlightened by the String quartet formation of "The Hague String Variations."

Also Happening in Amsterdam This Spring:

Monday, 30 March; Business Lunch (WTC Amsterdam)

"Peace and Stability through Trade" is the mission of the World Trade Center that has its roots and headquarters in New York. In celebration of their combined heritage, the WTC Amsterdam Business Club will host a business lunch. As key note speakers, Minister Frans Timmermans and Dutch architect Ben van Berkel, will address specific topics relating to 400 years of business relations between Amsterdam and New York.



The American Book Center and the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam, launch a new lecture series entitled:
400 Years of Shared Dutch American History,
Where Do We Go From Here?

These discussion evenings will each feature a different topic emerging from Dutch and American shared values, led by a diplomat from the U.S. Consulate General and moderated by Donna DuCarme, manager of the American Book Center's cultural venue, the ABC Treehouse.

The first lecture/discussion evening will encompass an overview of the history and values Dutch and Americans share and will be led by Consul General, Marjorie A. Ames on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 1830 hrs (6:30 p.m.). We will start with a cocktail half-hour (bring a drink or snack to share) followed by the speaker's brief remarks and audience discussion. We will end by 2030 hrs (8:30 p.m.).

All evenings will be held at the ABC Treehouse, Voetboogstraat 11, Amsterdam (just across the square from the American Book Center). Seating is limited, reservations can be made via

<http://www.treehouse.abc.nl/index.php?page=details&itemid=885>.

No Tax Advisor Visit to the Consulate in Amsterdam This Year

February 6, 2008 The Internal Revenue Service has canceled its assistance program for U.S. citizens overseas for 2009. This means that there will be no tax advisor visiting the Consulate General in Amsterdam this year. The IRS has, however, published a brochure with helpful websites and guidance:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

More information and guidance can also be found through the IRS office in Frankfurt, Germany. For contact information, please see our website:

<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/taxes.html>

International Women's Day

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

March 8, 2009



"On the occasion of International Women's Day 2009, I am proud to honor women around the world who are blazing trails and surmounting obstacles in pursuit of equality and opportunity. Although you may not know their names or recognize their faces, these women advocates are hard at work in every country and on every continent, seeking to fulfill their right to participate fully in the political, economic and cultural lives of their societies. Often working against great odds and at great personal sacrifice, they are a key to global progress in this new century and deserve our admiration and support.

Put simply, we have much less hope of addressing the complex challenges we face in this new century without the full participation of women. Whether the economic crisis, the spread of terrorism, regional conflicts that threaten families and communities, and climate change and the dangers it presents to the world's health and security, we will not solve these challenges through half measures. Yet too often, on these issues and many more, half the world is left behind.

This is not simply a matter of emotion or altruism. A growing body of research tells us that supporting women is a high-yield investment, resulting in stronger economies, more vibrant civil societies, healthier communities, and greater peace and stability. But even so, no nation in the world has yet achieved full equality for women.

Women still comprise the majority of the world's poor, unfed, and unschooled. Hundreds of thousands of women die in childbirth every year. They are subjected to rape as a tactic of war and exploited by traffickers globally in a billion dollar criminal business. Laws are still on the books denying women the right to own property, access credit, or make their own choices within their marriage. And honor killings, maiming, female genital mutilation, and other violent and degrading practices that target women are tolerated in too many places today.

Like all people, women deserve to live free from violence and fear. To create peaceful, thriving communities, women must be equal partners. That means making key resources available to women as well as men, including the chance to work for fair wages and have access to credit; to vote, petition their governments and run for office; to know they can get healthcare when they need it, including family planning; and to send their children to school—their sons *and* their daughters.

Women also have a crucial role to play in establishing peace worldwide. In regions torn apart by war, it is often the women who find ways to reach across differences and discover common ground as mothers, caretakers, and grass-roots advocates. One need only look to Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the Balkans, and parts of Central America to see the impact of women working in their communities to bridge divides in areas of sectarian conflict.

This week, as we celebrate the accomplishments and the untapped potential of women around the world, we must remind ourselves that ensuring the rights of women and girls is not only a matter of justice. It is a matter of enhancing global peace, progress, and prosperity for generations to come.